

Official News-Letter of the Founders' Younger Boys' Camp

The American Youth Foundation, 3713 Washington Blvd., St. Louis, Mo.

November

1937

HELLO, HELLO, AND HELLO!

How are you all - campers and leaders of Younger Boys' and Pre-Senior Camp of 1937? It just doesn't seem possible that three months have passed since we were all together at Miniwanca. But such is the case, and that means that in just about seven and a half more months we'll be hitting the trail again to our "Camp of Golden Splendor" - "On the Sand Dunes of Miniwanca."

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN

the huge crowd of Older Girls that took possession of Camp Miniwanca after you fellows left ... more than 350 all told ... from 36 states ... girls 17 to 22 years of age. After two fast-moving weeks the Older Fellows came ... 325 strong ... from 39 states. Canada, Canal Zone, China, and Japan also were represented this summer at Miniwanca. The total enrollment, all camps, for the summer was around the 1,000 mark. It is estimated that close to 2,500 persons were on the camp grounds at various times this past summer.

SOME DAY

I want you Younger Boy and Pre-Senior Campers to have a try at the Older Boys' Camp. You'll have the thrill of a life-time! Talk about a fast-moving camp ... what a time they do have! It was great to see so many old Y.B. Campers this summer in Older Boys' Camp, and I can promise you they gave a good account of themselves. Older Boys' Camp, as you know, is the "graduate" camp for Younger Boys and Pre-Senior fellows. Going to Older Boys' is an experience that every real Younger Boy and Pre-Senior Camper of leadership calibre will want to look forward to.



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AFTER ALL THE 1937 CAMPS WERE CLOSED

we immediately began to plan for next year. A number of changes will greet your eyes when you get up to camp next summer, chief among which will be an addition to the Younger Boys' Lodge. The camp has grown so that we find ourselves pretty much in the same class as the boy whose suit has become too small for him. Or is it that he has become too big for his suit?

AT ANY RATE

we need more space in our Younger Boys' Lodge, so we are planning a big addition on the west rear side of the building. The new addition will add considerable floor space to the main room and will provide for a row of small rooms in the rear, including an office for the Camp Director - a regular camp office for transacting the business of the Younger Boys' and Pre-Senior Camps and perhaps a library and reading room. That sure will be a mighty fine and much needed addition to our camp equipment. And we are going to have seats built around the walls of the Lodge - and chairs for the Lodge, too. That will help us a lot in our assembly periods.

SPEAKING OF CHAIRS -

we are purchasing 200 brand-new cane-bottom chairs for the Younger Boys' Eating Lodge. The ones we had last year were borrowed from the Eating Lodge in the Lake Michigan unit. Some of the younger girls then had to sit on folding chairs and oh! oh! oh! their posture! We fellows don't want our Miniwanca sisters to have poor posture so we'll never do it again, girls. You will get your chairs back next summer without fail, for we won't need them any longer. Generous of the boys, don't you think?

AND BARNEY BLAKEMORE

has put in a requisition - pardon, an order - for a small shack to serve as a property and dressing room for Cedar Sand Theatre. Okedoke, Barney, guess we'll have to find a way to give it to you. How shall we handle this? Shall we have the shack built before you boys come up or do you want to build it yourselves? Just as you say.

AND HERE'S A NEW ONE FOR YOU!

What would you say if I were to tell you that next summer we will have a cinder track for our track events? Well, that is what is going to happen. The freshman (1937) class of the Older Boys' Camp - the "Topaakis" they call themselves - meaning fourfold - say they want to build a track and they have put up the money for it, too, so it looks as though it is a sure go. Now, for some real records! Bring your track shoes next summer, you sprinters. We're going to have some real track coaching again next summer for those inter-ested in track and athletic events - pole vaulting - sprinting - high jumping, etc., learning the finer points as it were. Competent instructors will be on hand to show you how during the Interest Periods.



AND FELLOWS, WHAT DO YOU SAY

to getting some new names for our different camping units? Who in the world wants to be known as a "Peewee"? ... and "Big Boy" ... that's not so good either. It's funny how those names have stuck. Somebody used those names several years ago and before we knew it everybody was doing it. We want new names - names that stand for something ... names with a good challenging ring. What do you suggest?

LET'S HAVE A CONTEST

Just for fun, let's see who can suggest the best names. We'll do it this way. You send in the names you like and in the next issue of The Trail, or perhaps by letter, we'll list the names suggested and then we'll have a place for you to vote on the names you like. If we do it by letter perhaps we can have our new names selected in time for the next issue of The Trail. What do you say? If it's a go, send in your choice right away - a name for the boys under twelve, one for the thirteen-fourteen year old boys, and a name for the fifteen-seventeen fellows.

YES, THE LEADERS ARE IN THIS

Just take a postcard, or a sheet of paper - write down the names you like and rush it to the Founder office, 3713 Washington Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri. And when you write, say a word about yourself... what you are doing and how everything is going with you. We'll try to put the news in the next issue of The Trail. Now don't forget - get your names in right away.

BOY, YOU SHOULD SEE

some of those new camp movies we took last summer. The "shots" of the Adirondack Shack, you Pre-Senior fellows, are simply great. Wait until you see them! And Barney and you Cedar Sand players! Talk about real action, in color, mind you, of your wonderful play with the pirates and the priests in the monastery .. we sure have something there. Yes, the new movies are being built into our fine colored movies of Younger Boys' and Pre-Senior Camps and here's hoping you all see them sometime this year when someone from the camp office comes round to see you.

DEER

Deer - yes - deer in Y.B! One afternoon in mid-September while checking up on some equipment needs in Younger Boys' Camp, all of a sudden we came upon some fresh deer tracks - a big buck and a doe. We first picked up the trail at the Pre-Senior bulletin board near Tent #1. Both buck and doe moved on toward the



Boys' Lodge and just before approaching the tents in Younger Boys' - the buck tracks completely disappeared - just dropped out of sight entirely. Nice work, Mr. Buck! The doe continued along the trail to the Boys' Lodge and at that point was apparently frightened because the tracks widened considerably and little Miss Doe was going somewhere fast. Across the open stretch and up toward the Crafthouse the doe resumed a more reserved pace and dropping down along the side of the dune continued on her way over toward the stockade. Here's hoping they will be there next summer when we get back.

MAN ALIVE, IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG

to fill up all the pages of The Trail, so we'll have to pipe down and give some of the leaders a chance. They are all hankering to have a little chat with you.

AND BY THE WAY -

you should see the fast growing list of group leaders already lined up for next summer's camp - Barney Blakemore, Johnny Raach, Jim Bell, Ken Schaefer, Roger Ganfield, Ted Stansell, Phil Simon, Bob Wortmann, Joe Verlie, George Bramhall, Gene Teeter, Joe Edwards, Charlie Hudson, Jim Foerster, John Giele, Roblee McCarthy if he is not in Europe, Andy Sundstrom, Bob Shank if he doesn't have to do interne work, and others on the way.

NEXT SUMMER WILL BE A GREAT YEAR

at Miniwanca. It will be the 25th Anniversary year of the founding of the Founder Camps and it is certain we will have to refuse registrations just as we did this year in the Younger Girls' and Older Boys' and Girls' Camps. The Younger Boy and Pre-Senior units are about up against the top of their limits and we don't want the camp to become too big ... about 40, 40, and 40 for the three units. So-o-o-o, it would be a wise thing just to have your daddy or mother write in now for a reservation - then you will be sure of your place.

WELL, HERE'S SOME NEWS FROM SOME OF OUR LEADERS

Hey Fellows!

How's the weather - cold? Oh no, it's not, for 'tis June at Miniwanca. That wind is kicking up some surf on Michigan, sighing through the wooded dunes, and stirring the sand on Baldy to make tobogganing better than ever. Have you been climbing stairs at school? Wake up and sing, quit your dreaming - the dip should have been colder - "Every round goes higher, higher." Nearly half way up now, soon you'll be in camp again - that is if you can "take it." Winded? Okey, we'll take a breather, better get in condition - those last few steps have tripped a good many who were not "heads up."

Is that a scowl I see? Sure it was tough to have the "Slave Driver" get you out of that warm bed to respond to Big George's "Hurry" when you felt so lazy and were just wondering whether "Tinkle's" reveille was fuzzier than usual. Marshall can't keep his gang waiting forever, and those hot-cakes smell real. Did I hear you squawk about cleaning up your ro-- tent? Pitch in and give Mother a break, she deserves it.

Ah, a smile; that's better! Sure I remember Fink's skunk - maybe Mathews does, too. Do you suppose the snipe were driven away by all that shooting at Cedar Sand? Say, those plays were good at that. Was Reverend "Sleeping Beauty" Blakemore taken to the cleaners by Raach's merry maids or was it just "wet wash - family style"? Leader party tonight? Of course not - can't you see that Alspach and Bill are pals and are even nice to JoJo. Night's Doings? Low council, hay-ride, treasure hunt, flashlight relay - maybe, but wouldn't it be a wonderful night for beach games and a moonlight swim? Hillside comes first, and maybe Gene will play the marimba after supper.

Did you notice the improvements on Chapel Dune? "Chuck's Chain Gang" certainly did a real job - Fellows are mighty lucky to have church in a spot like that and to hear Wadjepi, Horace and Minisino, too. By the way, why were Rog, Ken, and Dick so rushed about getting the gang home from the last banquet? Queer, if you ask me.

That noise? Probably Giele and Gil dueling earlier than usual. From the sound of that bell, Verlie must be as hungry as "Heavy" was after the Point Sable hike. Here comes Br'er Shank - you know half the fun up here is making friends like that. Wish the gang at home were as good sports and knew half the ways of having real fun. That gives me an idea - maybe camp should be for twelve months in the year. The fellows have been mighty good about helping me, maybe I should pass it on. True I can't sing like Steve, swim like Roblee, sail like Admiral Ed, or run games and tournaments like Bake and Ted, but there are lots of quiet ways for a fellow to help - take Phil, now.

Is this all true or just a dream? Ask Little George, he knows everything. Yes sir, what a gang, what a camp, what a summer! This was my first - perhaps yours too, - BUT not the last. What do you say? 100% for 1938? Yeah!!



Paul McGinnis

My work in the Craft Department last summer was very interesting. I had come to Miniwanca with the idea that some nice articles could be fashioned out of discarded tin cans, and with the true craftsman's cooperation that I received in that field, I believe that the campers really saw the possibilities of tin-can craft. This craft is one which can be carried on equally well at home; therefore I sincerely hope that some of you campers will continue to put into practice some of the ideas you received this past summer. Next summer's craft leaders are going to bring more and better projects for you campers to work on, and I, as one, may assure you that the craft work alone will make it worth your while to return.

The Peewee's ideals monument still remains unfinished, but my deepest thanks go to all my little workers for the fine spirit that they showed in trying to finish that piece of masonry before camp ended. Another thing on which I want to compliment the Peeweeps is their promptness in getting down to the morning exercises and dip. I don't believe that a single one of them ever missed those exercises.

I felt very proud of being able to fool the whole camp once. It seems that for about two weeks I had told my tent of Peeweeps that my birthday was tomorrow. Of course, tomorrow never came, so finally they asked me on what day my birthday came. My answer was the twenty-seventh, and the morning of July 27 I walked into the Eating Lodge to the tune of "Happy Birthday." It took quite a bit of explaining to make everyone understand that although I had specified the twenty-seventh as my birthday, I hadn't stated in which month it came. Nice joke, eh?

Kenneth Schaefer

When I think about camp last summer I immediately recall two outstanding phases of my own activity - the store, and Cedarsand Theatre. Just as surely as night follows day, I could expect to hear the latter part of the dinner hour disturbed by five and a half people yelling "Store tonight?" - three more souls shouting "Any Kodak films?" or "Any flashlight batteries?" and when cherries were in season - "Got some cherries?" What an exodus as soon as Paul had dismissed the meal! The ghosts of the old Pottawotamies who haunt those grounds must have had high blood pressure everytime they saw the thundering herd go tearing from the Eating Lodge to the store. If any one leader had the right to feel the importance of his position, the storekeeper is the one. To see the line waiting for his appearance does something to one's sense of authority. The amazing thing to me in connection with the line was how orderly it behaved, and how quickly it was usually taken care of. The store not only afforded a place of refreshment, but it likewise enabled you all to get acquainted with some first-hand book-keeping and balancing of accounts. Many is the time that Gene and I stopped our dispersing articles, to assist some up and coming business executive get his book "in order." Well, it was all good fun and fine training for both Gene and me and for the boys. Apparently it was worth the effort, because on the last Sunday afternoon I heard many remarks like this - "My bank-book totals with my money!"

While the store was entertaining and an interesting place to observe human nature, yet Cedarsand was the place where we had all the fun. We have had many a good laugh at the things that go on at that spot. Can you forget how "Sleeping Beauty" Barney caused the throne of the king father "Scrupit 73rd" (Alspach - to you) to collapse the night of the leaders' frolic?

Remember how Wadjepi used to say "We specialize in the impossible"? Well, nowhere did that saying seem to work more than at Cedarsand. When we had to costume things ranging from a colonial play to the royal court of the Sleeping Beauty, we had to do the seemingly impossible. However, we managed, with the aid of many of your fertile imaginations to have some very colorful productions.

That reminds me of one of the most exciting two minutes of my short life. As you found out at the end of the play, I was crouched behind the altar to help Charlie paint it when the time arrived. A time which I thought never would come, because the candles on the altar kept burning down lower and lower into their holders. Underneath them, and this is a secret, there was nothing but paper. From my position the only thing I could see was some little flames getting uncomfortably near that paper - uncomfortable only for me. Had not Charlie been praying for a miracle I would have suddenly made my presence known and extinguished what looked rather bad. As it was we had no trouble, and I was the only one who had a cheap thrill out of it. Things like that make life interesting!

Last summer we got a start on some permanent pieces for properties and costumes. We hope that we can continue to add to these next summer. If any of you have any old costumes hanging around looking for someone to wear them, bring them up to camp and we'll be sure to find some place for them.

But now I must close and begin once again to pursue my education, so that some day I can lecture to a few of you upon the reasons why this happened in history and not that. It is a great topic, but one that exacts plenty of time. Until later then - greetings!

Johnny Raach

Next summer a scoring system which is a little new is going to be used. The tribes will have to work hard to keep a lead. Every little thing will make a difference; a baseball game won, the taking of the aquatic meet, getting perfect in inspection, or being first in a treasure hunt will put a tribe ahead or put them in the bottom classes.

Right now you can prepare for next year's competition by doing your best in every little thing. Remember it is the small things which stack up to make you the leader in your gang. Go to it, fellows! Give them everything you have!

I will be seeing you next summer.

George

(George Bramhall)

To the Editor of The Trail:

I've been waiting for this issue of The Trail so I could personally and publically thank the Sands (correct me if my memory serves me wrongly) for an invaluable service. It is because of their diligence that we have today a Craffthouse. Some hundred brawny hands were methodically tearing our beloved Craffthouse to pieces, and threatening the safety of a few courageous and indispensable leaders, when the above mentioned rescue crew discovered the treasure up by the barbecue.

Recollections of this form for me the healthy nuclei for nightmares, and my funniest dreams group themselves around pictures of some of our camper intelligentsia defying the law of gravity and trying to pace off the required number of steps vertical to the Craffthouse.

Seriously, though, thanks for a wonderful summer. It was swell working with such a co-operative and interested group of fellows. I know these sentiments are felt by the other craft leaders.

Steve Letterberg

MINIWANCA CAMP DATES

Younger Boys' Camp -- June 20 to July 31

Younger Girls' Camp - June 21 to July 31

Older Girls' Camp - August 1-14

Older Boys' Camp - August 15-28

I'm writing this letter to all of you from Chicago, and as I sit here there is a brisk wind blowing. Just a few blocks away from where I live is Lake Michigan and I know that right now there are some wonderful breakers rolling on the beach, not only here in Chicago, but up at Miniwanca, too. All that reminds me of the fun we had last summer. I know that you haven't forgotten that last Monday morning at camp when we all went over to the big lake to enjoy the surf. It was so cold that we built a big fire at the entrance to Michigan trail - remember? and the waves were so huge that every five minutes we had to get out of the water and walk back up the beach so that we could start all over. I know that my own tent "M" all remember the fun we used to have coming over the trail playing "Automobile" - Beep-beep! And the night that we had supper on the beach and after the sun had gone down we gathered around the fire with our "analysis sheets" and together we took stock of ourselves. We looked ourselves in the eyes that night, fellows, and I hope that all of you are carrying through on some of the suggestions that we made. I remember one boy in particular - we suggested that he ought to get into things a little bit more instead of just watching other people do things. I hope he is hopping to it in school, and with hobbies, and in Sunday School, too.

This wind reminds me, too, that it would be fine to be sailing across Stony. It would take a strong arm to hold the sheet today, and real seamanship to be able to watch the "puffs" coming across the water. It's the kind of weather that the Billetts and "Swede" like for regattas. That was certainly a good idea to have sailboat races every week, and I know that next summer we'll have a load of fun out on that water.

And talking of next summer, those of you who are interested in the Fine Arts Department will be pleased to hear that we are going to build a scenery and supply room back of Cedarsand. Now that we have Cedarsand well under way, it is time that we began to develop more permanent scenery for our stage. We made a start with those big doors in "The Gold Altar" and they are safely stored away. All of you who are taking part in dramatics at school this year might look around for pointers on what we can do at Cedarsand. Johnny Raach and I have some ideas, but we want you to help, too. It is a little early yet to announce any definite names of plays for next year's performances, but John and I will be reading a number this year and we'll bring the best of them to camp. Some of you fellows have done wonderful work up there in the last two years; you are real veterans of the stage. I can't mention all of you, but none of us will forget Jim Cory's good work as Roger Pye, the pirate. Chuck Boydstun, Pierre Zetterberg, the Fuller brothers, and Meredith are good dependable workers and I am looking forward to seeing all of them and lots of new fellows in our dramatic work next year.

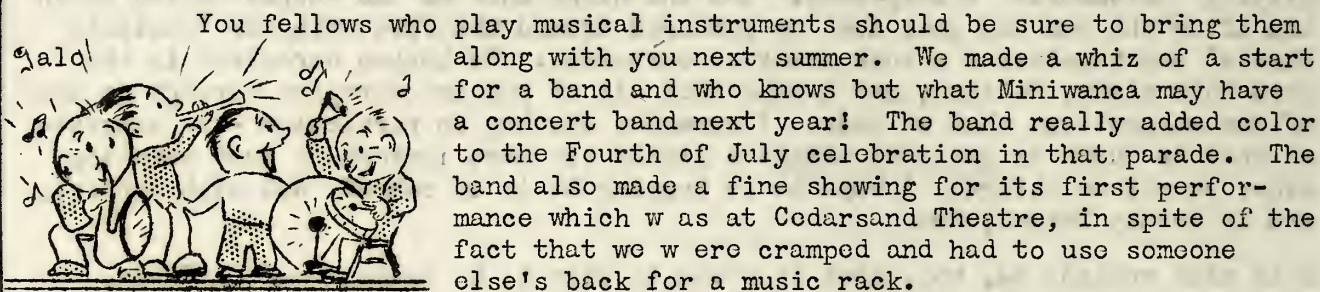
By the way, did you know that the moving pictures that Wadjepi took of our play have turned out perfectly. I haven't seen them myself yet, but Wadjepi told me that they are to be inserted in the big reel of Y.B. camp activities. I know you will all be on the lookout for them if they come to your town. I am always interested to hear from you, and I wait for each issue of The Trail as anxiously as I know that you do. You are all planning to be at the big 1938 camp I know, and with the swell bunch of campers that we had last year and some new ones, I know that it will be the best ever.

Barney

Hello Campers:

Now that you have been home for a while and are in school again, you've had a chance to realize just what that summer in Camp Miniwanca really meant to you. And better still, the more you come, the more you get out of it.

Remember the story I told you about the little devil that was always trying to discourage people? Well, don't let him get you. You just plan right now to be a part of that big 1938 camp!



Miniwanca offers you the finest relationships in the world. Come and be a part of it again next summer.

Best wishes!

Gene

CAMP SERVICE!

Wadjepe wrote to me several weeks before camp opened last June informing me that he was not certain as to just what role I would fill in camp. He went on to say that he might ask me to help out in the camp store or maybe in the bank or post office. He just wasn't sure, but everything would be arranged and all instructions given the leaders before the younger boys arrived in camp. It so happened that I did not fall into any of these departments Wadjepe had mentioned, but I was placed in charge of a department that was to be tremendously interesting and greatly worth while. This department was the Camp Service Department. This is a volunteer service project group and affords fellows who go in for it the opportunity to learn many things in woodcraft, handling of tools, figuring out jobs, etc.

Camp Service certainly gave me some entertaining hours "On the Sand Dunes of Miniwanca." It gave each and every boy who entered into the work of the department an added thrill, I am sure. The work of the department consisted of making repairs around the camp, and also in making improvements. One never knew just what might happen in the way of a tent pole breaking or a step in the trail coming loose.

When eleven o'clock rolled around, the group would be seen starting out from the Assembly Lodge with hatchets hanging to our belts, a shovel in one hand and a saw in the other. Incidentally, our pockets were bulging with nails.

One of our jobs was to fix a more stable step for the Assembly Lodge. Another job drew us to the top of Chapel Dune. Chapel Dune, as the campers know, competes with "Old Baldy" for height. Climbing those dunes put us in great shape even though we were panting like lizards when we reached the top. On Chapel Dune we had great fun in moving the speaker's platform down several feet to provide room for more rows of seats. We also built an extension to the platform making it more serviceable.

We made many improvements on the trails to Chapel Dune and to Vesper Dune (Hillside). We raised the floors of several tents.

John Allen seemed very interested in cleaning out the fish pool in the middle of the camp. Johnny took several boys and they did a dandy job. They cleaned all the leaves away and fixed it up great. I can readily understand how any fish would give anything to live in that pool.

Cleaning up the piles of scrap wood around the Eating Lodge was enjoyable, for the boys learned that the Eating Lodge was a pretty good place to be near, especially when the lunch bell rang.

The job that gave us the most fun was the job that took us over to the other camp. The Pre-Senior boys got in on this. They were bigger and stronger and the work was heavier. The Black Cabin, the Wisconsin Cabin, and the Woods Cabin had just been built and they had to be put in shape for the Older Girls' Camp and the Older Boys' Camp. There were trails to be built connecting the three cabins with each other. These trails all had to lead into the bay trail. Steps had to be built up the side of the ridge, and the cabins generally put in ship-shape condition.

All in all, it was an entertaining time for the whole group. Although there were tasks that had not been taken care of due to the short amount of time available, we did accomplish something. It was a treat to work with the boys.

I would like to extend my best wishes to them for the coming year. Hoping to see all of the campers back next summer, I am

Sincerely,

Charlie Hudson

WOULDN'T IT BE NICE IF WE COULD HAVE A NEW TENNIS COURT

next summer in Y. B? Well, sit tight, and hold your breath; perhaps we can find a way to work it out. The Younger Boys' Camp can use another court and it is scheduled to appear before very long. Just keep on hoping!

BIG WIND STORM AT MINIWANCA

Reports say it was the stiffest gale in the history of the Michigan Weather Bureau. At one time the wind for a period of ten minutes reached a velocity of 53 miles an hour. Practically no damage done at camp, however, which bears excellent testimony to the stoutness of our buildings. A few rotted trees were blown down, and that is nice for it saves us the trouble of cutting them down.

INCIDENTALLY,

we are planning to give the campers a chance to do some tree doctoring next summer. We all remember the fine "repair" job on trees by the Pre-Senior fellows of the 1936 camp. You tree men will want to be reading up a bit on tree-craft.

TELL YOUR MOTHERS AND FATHERS

that the gap in our camp road - on the Michigan side of the property - has now been cemented on both sides of the camp bridge, and a complete new bridge - much wider than the old one - has been built. Also that a nice parking lot is being built at Squaw Bay, where the road into the Younger Boys' Camp begins.

BE SURE TO SAVE YOUR CAMP ROSTER!

You will probably want to write to some of your friends over the Christmas holidays and CHRISTMAS! Boy, it will soon be here!

THE FOUNDER CHRISTMAS TREE

at Camp Miniwanca will be decorated and lighted as usual. Charlie Thompson, our caretaker, for many years has performed the ceremonies of festooning our Christmas tree. On Christmas Eve, he goes to the grounds and lights the candles and you can imagine how pretty it looks. So - at Christmas time just think of Miniwanca and your Christmas tree, and all that Founder four-fold training stands for. Then straighten up and square your shoulders and be proud that you are a Founder fellow!

SPEAKING OF CHARLIE THOMPSON -

we are sorry to report that the camp horse, Old Dan, recently forgot his Founder training and kicked Charlie so badly that he has been laid up for the past three weeks. He (Charlie) is coming along nicely, however, and hopes to be back in the harness again (not Dan's) before so very long. If you want to drop a card to Charlie mail it to R. R. #2, Shelby, Michigan.

WELL, FOUNDER FELLOWS,

it is time to close. Don't forget to send in your vote for names for the three Younger Boy and Pre-Senior camp units. Also, keep your eagle eye open for a good high grade pal to bring with you to camp next summer. We want every camper to be personally recommended. And we are planning for 1938, our 25th Anniversary Year, the best Younger Boys' and Pre-Senior Camps we have ever had. If you have any ideas you would like to see worked out next summer, send them in and I'll promise they will have careful consideration.

More later! Go to it, fellows, and play the game every day - according to Founder rules.

Wadjepi -